

REPORT

Of the Committee on Commerce in the case of the brig Union, now called the William, with a Bill authorizing the issuing a Register to the Brig William, of New York.

FEBRUARY 3, 1824.

Read, and, with the Bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the petition of William Porter, of New York, respectfully submit to the House of Representatives the following

REPORT:

The facts stated in the petition are as follows: The brig Union, a British vessel of about 180 tons, in a voyage from Ireland to New York, was driven ashore in a gale of wind, on Long Island, in the state of New York. In that situation, she was sold for the benefit of all the parties concerned, when William Porter, the petitioner, became the purchaser. He got her off at a considerable expense. In towing her to the harbor of New York, she sunk, on her way, in the channel. She was again raised, at great expense, and arrived, without further accidents, in the port aforesaid. She was delivered over to a certain Timothy Perry, a shipwright, to be repaired. Her repairs cost \$7000; and she was considered by the shipwright, when he delivered her to her owner, as a new built vessel. as will appear by his certificate. The petitioner thinks he is entitled to a Register for her, and solicits that one may be granted.

The facts stated in this case are fully proved, to the satisfaction of the committee, and they cannot perceive any reasonable objection to the granting of a register to the said brig, now called the William. Such cases rarely occur; and when they do, the vessels must undergo such thorough repairs, as to make them almost new vessels. In the present case, the brig may be said to be rebuilt; and the shipwright who contracted to repair her, states she was built by him. She cost nearly, if not quite as much, as a vessel of the same tonnage would have cost, had her keel been laid in the United States.

By authorizing the issuing of a register to this vessel, no departure, in the opinion of the committee, will be made, from either the letter, or the spirit, of the law regulating the registering of vessels.

The intention of the law is, evidently, to encourage the construction of vessels in the United States, and the mechanic arts connected with that branch of industry. In this case, it is clear, the shipwright was as much benefitted, as if he had contracted to build a new vessel. From these considerations, the committee are of opinion that a register ought to be granted to the brig called the William. They, therefore, respectfully report a bill, authorizing the issuing of a register to the brig William.